

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 18 and 37 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend the remaining claims, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a wireless network client to configure the wireless network client to access an appropriate wireless access point in a network environment, the method comprising:
  - a discovery step of discovering a wireless local network identity of each wireless access point in the network environment;
  - a monitoring step of monitoring each identified wireless local network for detection of a predetermined broadcast message, wherein the predetermined broadcast message is broadcast by an already-configured computing device; and
  - a configuration step of configuring, in the case that the predetermined broadcast message is detected in the monitoring step, the wireless network client to access the wireless access point corresponding to the wireless local network on which the predetermined broadcast message was detected, and sending a configuration announcement message to the already-configured computing device from the wireless network client on the wireless local network so as to signal the already-configured computing device to terminate broadcast of the predetermined broadcast message.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the discovery step discovers the wireless local network identity of each wireless access point by monitoring

each one of a predetermined set of wireless local networks for a beacon message from a wireless access point, and the beacon message contains the wireless local network identity corresponding to the wireless local network on which the beacon message is detected.

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the discovery step discovers the wireless local network identity of each wireless access point by sending a probe request message and monitoring for detection of a probe response message issued by a wireless access point in response to the probe request message, the probe response message containing the wireless local network identity corresponding to the wireless local network on which the probe response message is detected.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the monitoring step monitors each identified wireless local network for a predetermined period of time.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein, in the monitoring step, each one of a plurality of predetermined wireless channels is monitored for each identified wireless local network for a predetermined period of time.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein, in the discovery step, the wireless network client obtains a MAC address of the wireless access point and a signal-to-noise ratio corresponding to each discovered wireless local network identity.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein, in the monitoring step, the wireless network client records the detection of each predetermined broadcast message in a table entry of a monitor table.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the table entry corresponds to the wireless local network identity of the wireless local network on which the predetermined broadcast message was detected.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein, in the monitoring step, in the case that the predetermined broadcast message is not detected in any of the identified wireless local networks after a predetermined period of time, the wireless network client stops monitoring for detection of the predetermined broadcast message.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein, in the configuration step, the wireless network client is configured in the case that only one predetermined broadcast message is detected in the monitoring step.

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein, in the configuration step, the wireless network client records a MAC address of the wireless access point corresponding to the wireless local network of the detected predetermined broadcast message.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined broadcast message includes a predetermined character string.

13. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined broadcast message includes an identifier of a computing device which broadcast the predetermined broadcast message.

14. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein, in the configuration step, the configuration announcement message sent by the wireless network client is a device discovery announcement in accordance with a device discovery protocol.

15. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein, in the configuration step, the configuration announcement message includes a state variable having a value which indicates that the wireless network client is a new device on the wireless local network.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the method is initiated in the case that power to the wireless network client is cycled and the wireless network client is unconfigured.

17. (Original) A wireless network client device for accessing an appropriate wireless access point in a wireless network environment, comprising:

a program memory for storing process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 1 to 16; and

a processor for executing the process steps stored in said program memory.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A computer-readable medium which stores computer-executable process steps, the computer-executable process steps for configuring a wireless network client to access an appropriate wireless access point in a wireless network environment, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 1 to 16.

20. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for use in~~ executed by a computing device which is already configured to access a particular wireless access point in a network environment, the method for configuring ~~a wireless~~ an unconfigured wireless network client to access the same particular wireless access point, the method comprising:

a broadcast step of initiating broadcasts from the already-configured computing device of a predetermined broadcast message on a wireless local network which corresponds to the particular wireless access point;

a monitoring step of monitoring the wireless local network which corresponds to the particular wireless access point for detection of a configuration announcement message from the unconfigured wireless network client, wherein the

configuration announcement message signifies configuration of the unconfigured wireless network client; and

a termination step of terminating, in the case that the configuration announcement message is detected in the monitoring step or in the case that a timeout period has elapsed, the broadcasts from the already-configured computing device of the predetermined broadcast message.

21. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the method is performed in response to a user input to the computing device.

22. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein, in the broadcast step, the predetermined broadcast message contains a predetermined character string.

23. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein, in the broadcast step, the predetermined broadcast message contains an identifier corresponding to the computing device.

24. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein, in the broadcast step, the predetermined broadcast message is broadcast periodically at a predetermined time interval.

25. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein, in the broadcast step, the predetermined broadcast message is a UDP broadcast message.

26. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the configuration announcement message from the wireless network client is a device discovery announcement in accordance with a device discovery protocol.

27. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the configuration announcement message from the wireless network client includes a state variable which indicates whether the wireless network client is a new device on the wireless local network, and includes a MAC address of the wireless network client.

28. (Original) The method according to Claim 27, wherein in the terminating step, the broadcasts of the predetermined broadcast message are terminated in the case that the configuration announcement message is detected and if the state variable in the configuration announcement message indicates that the wireless network client is a new device on the wireless local network.

29. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, further comprising the step of:

a generating step of generating an error message in the case that the timeout period has elapsed and there has been no detection in the monitoring step of a

configuration announcement message containing an indication that the wireless network client is a new device on the wireless local network.

30. (Original) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the error message generated in the generating step initiates a user-interface message on a display connected to the computing device, and the user-interface message indicates that manual identification of a wireless local network identity is required for use by the wireless network client.

31. (Original) The method according to Claim 30, wherein the displayed user-interface message includes a list of wireless local network identities in the wireless network environment.

32. (Original) The method according to Claim 31, wherein, in response to a user selection of a displayed wireless local network identity, a configuration message is sent from the computing device to the wireless network client which contains the user selected wireless local network identity for configuring the wireless network client.

33. (Original) The method according to Claim 29, wherein the error message generated in the generating step initiates a user-interface message on a display of a network peripheral on the wireless local network, and the user-interface message indicates

that manual identification of a wireless local network identity is required for use by the wireless network client.

34. (Original) The method according to Claim 33, wherein the displayed user-interface message includes a list of wireless local network identities in the wireless network environment.

35. (Original) The method according to Claim 34, wherein, in response to a user selection of a displayed wireless local network identity, a configuration message is sent from the computing device to the wireless network client which contains the user selected wireless local network identity for configuring the wireless network client.

36. (Original) A computing device configured to access a particular wireless access point in a wireless network environment and enabled to configure a wireless network client to access the particular wireless access point, the computing device comprising:

a program memory for storing process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 20 to 35; and

a processor for executing the process steps stored in said program memory.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Original) A computer-readable medium which stores computer-executable process steps, the computer-executable process steps for use in a computing device which is configured to access a particular wireless access point in a wireless network environment, for configuring a wireless network client to access the particular wireless access point, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 20 to 35.

STATEMENT SUMMARIZING INTERVIEW

The undersigned thanks Examiner O'Connor and his Supervisor, Mr. Hassan Kizou, for the courtesies and thoughtful treatment afforded during a telephone interview conducted on June 4, 2007. A statement summarizing the interview follows.

At the interview, it was explained that the invention involves coordination between an already-configured network device and a yet-to-be-configured wireless network client, so as to use the already-configured network device to configure the unconfigured network client. For example, referring to one representative embodiment illustrated in Figure 1 of the subject application, an already-configured device 1 coordinates with an unconfigured wireless network client 2, so as to configure wireless network client 2 to use access point 4 out of access points 4 and 12 through 15.

According to one aspect of the invention, the already-configured computing device broadcasts a predetermined broadcast message, for which monitoring is performed by the unconfigured wireless network client. In the case that the predetermined broadcast message is detected by the unconfigured wireless network client, the wireless network client is configured in accordance therewith and thereafter sends a configuration announcement message to the already-configured computing device. The configuration announcement message is used by the already-configured computing device as a signal to terminate broadcast of the predetermined broadcast message.

In the pending claims, independent Claim 1 is directed to a method for use in the unconfigured wireless network client, whereas independent Claim 20 is directed to a method as used in the already-configured computing device.

During the interview, Mr. Kizou requested an amendment so as to clarify the effect of the configuration announcement message on the already-configured computing device. This change has been made, together with a conforming amendment so as to refer to an “already-configured computing device” rather than an “already-configured wireless network client”.

At the conclusion of the interview, it was agreed that the pending rejection would be withdrawn in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims. It was further agreed that an updated search would be performed prior to the issuance of a next Office Communication, which might or might not include an allowance.

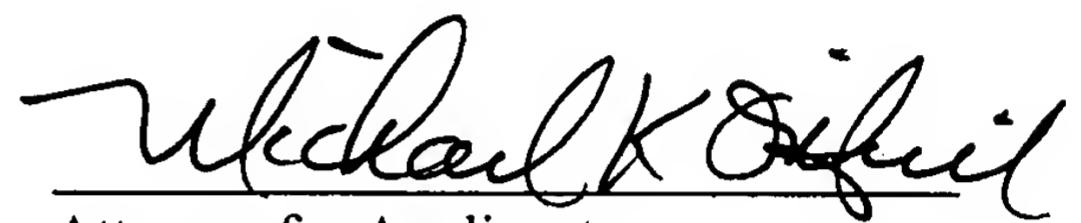
With respect to other issues raised in the Office Action, Claims 18 and 37 have been cancelled, and the Examiner confirmed receipt of the formal drawings filed on October 10, 2003.

As further explained during the interview, an Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment, so as to provide the Examiner with art cited in a counterpart Japanese application. Consideration of this art is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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